(Ireland.)

REPORT

FROM THE

COMMITTEE respecting the Draining of BOGS IN IRELAND:

With an Appendix.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be printed, 22d March* 1810.

THE COMMITTEE appointed to enquire into the Progress made for carrying into effect an Act made in the last Session of Parliament, to appoint Commissioners to enquire and examine, until the 1st day of August 1811, into the nature and extent of the several BOGS in IRELAND, and the practicability of draining and cultivating them, and the best means of effecting the same, and to report the same, with their Observations and Opinion thereupon, to the House;—Have, pursuant to the order of The House, examined the matter to them referred, and have agreed upon the following REPORT.

YOUR Committee having called upon the said Commissioners, for an Account of their Proceedings under the said Act, have received from them a Report thereof, together with a Copy of the Instructions given by the Commissioners to each of the Engineers in their employment.

It appears to Your Committee, that those Instructions will best explain the general nature of the Proceedings adopted by the Commissioners, and that the Report sufficiently explains the causes of their not being as yet able to exhibit a more detailed view of the subjects referred to their enquiries.

It further appears to Your Committee, that the grant of £.5,000 to the said Commissioners for the execution of the Act is nearly expended, and that their present weekly expenditure is about £.280; but that it is desirable to extend it to at least £.350 during the fine weather; and that a further and more considerable Grant will be necessary for the prosecution of the enquiry during the ensuing year.

Appendix, No. 1.

REPORT of the Commissioners for Drainage of Bogs in Ireland.

To the Honourable the Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to enquire respecting the Draining of the Bogs in Ireland.

IN obedience to your orders, we have the honour to Report, That we were appointed Commissioners, to enquire and examine into the nature and extent of the several Bogs in Ireland, and the practicability of draining and cultivating them, and

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the best means of effecting the same, by the Lord Lieutenant's Warrant on the 15th September last, and held our first meeting on the 19th of the same month.

That we selected for the first object of our enquiries, those extensive tracts of Bog lying between Dublin and the River Shannon, generally known by the name of the Bog of Allen; together with the large Bogs in Longford, Westmeath, and Tipperary.

That we have been induced to form this selection, from the united considerations of these Bogs being nearest to the Metropolis, connected with the great lines of Navigation already executed, and presenting, in the general opinion, very considerable difficulties; the overcoming which, will demonstrate the practicability of the improvement of the Bogs in Ireland in most other cases.

That we have divided them into eight Districts, containing near 190,000 Irish, or about 300,000 English acres of Bog, and given them in charge to the ablest Engineers we could procure, from some of whom, before the close of this Session, we hope to be able to lay Reports before Parliament.

That in order to explain the nature of the Reports that may be expected from the Engineers employed under us, we have annexed to this Report, a copy of the printed Instructions issued to them.

That owing principally to the late season of the year when we were appointed, and the difficulty of procuring Engineers duly qualified for the undertaking, none of the Surveys have been as yet completed, but that we are in weekly correspondence with all our Engineers, and have reason to be satisfied with the progress they have made.

That previous to receiving their Reports, it is our wish to avoid entering into any details, but that we are already enabled to state generally our belief that none of these Bogs lie at a greater elevation than 400 feet, nor at a lesser elevation than 100 feet above the level of the sea.

That they generally present surfaces of considerable inclinations to some parts of the rivers proper for their drainage, and that they generally lie on a stratum of limestone gravel, a substance peculiarly fitted for their reclamation.

That there are large tracts of Bog lying between the River Shannon and the Western Ocean, to which we are anxious next to direct our attention, as well as considerable tracts in other parts of Ireland.

That the Parliamentary Grant of last year, though applied with the most rigid economy, so far from being adequate to accomplish these objects, will not be sufficient for completing the Survey of the Districts already given in charge.

That the present weekly charge is about £. 280. and that the Grant of last Session will be entirely expended before the middle of next month.

That it would be highly desirable to take advantage of the Spring and Summer months, to push on the Surveys with as much expedition as possible, which would probably raise the Expenditure to at least £. 350. per week.

Ch. Vallancey,
J. S. Rochfort,
Richd Griffith,
William Gore,
Henry Hamilton.

Appendix, No. 2.

Copy of the general Instructions given by the Commissioners to the Engineers in their Employment.

THE Secretary of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the nature and extent of the several Bogs in Ireland, and the practicability of draining and cultivating them, is directed by the Board to communicate, for the information of the Engineers who may be employed, and of the Proprietors of Bogs, the mode in which they have been advised to proceed.

1st. They propose to divide the Bogs of Ireland into Districts, and to assign each District in charge to one or more Engineers.

2d. Each of the Engineers is to provide a sufficient number of Assistants, for whose qualifications he is to be responsible.

3d. The Commissioners think it necessary to direct the attention of their Engineers to the particular heads of Enquiry contained in these Instructions; but it is by no means

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